


International Mobile Satellite Organization
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Session

4 – 5 July 2007

Agenda item 8

IMSO/AC/19/8.3

Origin: Chairman

Date: 26 June 2007

DIRECTORATE ISSUES

<i>Executive Summary:</i>	this document discusses recognition of the services of the previous IMSO Director, Mr Jerzy Vonau, as well as redesignating the title of the Director.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	to agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to support any nomination for Mr Jerzy Vonau for the International Maritime Prize 2007; 2. to recommend to the Assembly that it decide to designate Mr Vonau as Director [General] Emeritus of IMSO with effect from 15 April 2007; 3. to recommend to the Assembly to amend the title of the Head of IMSO to Director General.
<i>Related documents:</i>	AC/19/8.2 – Work Programme for the Committee.

1 PREVIOUS IMSO DIRECTOR

1.1 IMO Circular Letter No 2785 dated 29 March 2007 invites nominations by 15 January 2008 for candidates for the International Maritime Prize for 2007. Nominations for this prize may be made by Governments or, *inter alia*, intergovernmental organizations with which IMO has established cooperative agreements or arrangements.

1.2 It is understood that a Government may nominate the previous IMSO Director, Mr Jerzy Vonau of Poland, for the IMO International Maritime Prize for 2007.

1.3 As the date for the receipt of nominations precedes the next regular Session of the IMSO Assembly, the Committee is invited to agree either (a) to support any nomination which may be submitted by a Government to nominate Mr Vonau for the prize; or (b) that IMSO should itself nominate Mr Vonau for the prize, as an intergovernmental organization with which IMO has established cooperative agreements or arrangements (Agreement of Cooperation between IMO and IMSO dated 15 December 1999 refers).

1.4 Mr Vonau served two terms as IMSO Director, and his term of office ended on 14 April 2007. During his eight years in office, Mr Vonau worked passionately and tirelessly to develop the Organization into the thriving and active Organization it is today. His professionalism, legal skills and dedication to the purposes and goals of the Organization were renowned. It is proposed that his achievements should be formally recognized by the Organization. The Committee is therefore also invited to agree to recommend to the Assembly that it decide to designate Mr Vonau as Director [General] Emeritus of the International Mobile Satellite Organization with effect from 15 April 2007.

2 DESIGNATION OF THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

2.1 The IMSO Convention provides that the Head and Chief Executive of the Organization is designated the Director (Article 7(b)). In amending the Convention, the title of the executive organ of the Organization was changed from "Secretariat" to "Directorate". Prior to the privatisation of Inmarsat, the version of the Convention then in force provided that the Head and Chief Executive of the **Directorate** was designated the Director General (Inmarsat Convention (1979), as amended, Article 9(c)).

2.2 When the same countries came to consider the privatisation of Intelsat and consequent establishment of ITSO, not long after the privatisation of Inmarsat and establishment of IMSO, they decided that the Head of ITSO should be designated Director General (ITSO Treaty Agreement Article VIII(b)).

2.3 This change in title has caused confusion and resulted in a perceived reduction in status of the Head of the Organization and consequently the Organization itself. Indeed, the previous Director experienced difficulty on several occasions explaining his status and that of the Organization in the light of his title. This is undesirable and unnecessary.

2.4 The Committee is invited to agree to invite the Assembly to decide to return to the situation that pertained before privatisation and that the Director may use the title "Director General".

2.5 The Committee is also invited to agree that, if and when any future amendments to the Convention are considered, the Assembly should be invited to also decide to amend the title of the Head of the Organization to Director General in the relevant text of the Convention.
